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Alleged forcible collection of rent in Tekkali taluk, Srikakulam district.

8-40 a.m. * 220 Q.—SRI K. GOVINDA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a number of telegrams, petitions and representations were received by the Collector, Srikakulam, and the Hon. Revenue Minister from the ryots' associations in Tekkali taluk, Srikakulam district, with a request that all forcible collections of arrears of rent in unsurveyed (Amani) Estate villages be stopped; and

(*b*) the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Certain telegrams and representations on behalf of the estate ryots of Srikakulam district, particularly Tekkali taluk, were received by the Government recently stating that the collection of arrears of rent was causing hardship to them and requesting that the collection might be stopped. The Government have issued orders that attachments for arrears should be lifted, that demand should be confined to arrears of one fasli at present and that demand for arrears of one more fasli should be made in June-July after summer crop is harvested."

SRI K. GOVINDA RAO :—" May I know whether any specific orders have been issued stopping all collections of arrears in certain villages like Nagarampalli, Champapuram, etc., where illegal collections have been made? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I do not know anything of the kind, but the hon. Gentleman seems to have a speedier source of information. I will use my own source and find out whether it is a fact."

SRI P. PUNDARIKAKSHACHARYULU :—" May I know whether there are any summer crops in Tekkali taluk and, if so, what they are? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I would like to have notice of the question, Sir."

Fair price shops in West Godavari district.

* 221 Q.—SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether all fair price shops in West Godavari district have since been closed ;

(*b*) whether there were any stocks of foodgrains at the time of the closure of the shops ;

(*c*) if so, the balance of stocks and what has been done with such stocks;

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(*d*) whether the Government received any representations from the public to continue the fair price shops at least in the upland taluks of Kovvur, Polavaram, Chintalapudi and Tadepalligudem; and

(*e*) if so, whether there is any proposal to open fair price shops in those areas?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—' (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

" (*c*) Information regarding the balance of stocks with the dealers at the time of closure of shops is not readily available. It is also not possible to gather these particulars from all persons who have already closed down the shops. Instructions were, however, issued that the balance of rice stocks of less than five bags with each retailer might be allowed to be sold by the dealers themselves to the cardholders at the existing scale, till the stocks get exhausted and that the balance of rice stocks of five bags or more should be diverted to ex-statutorily rationed areas. Particulars of rice stocks of five bags or more held by each dealer in West Godavari district are being gathered by the Collector.

" (*d*) Yes.

" (*e*) No, not at present, Sir."

SRI M. RAJESWARA RAO :—" Have the Government any information about the deterioration of the quality of the stocks of foodgrains with the Taluk Supply Officer, Tadepalligudem, due to long storage and, if so, may I know whether the Government will take immediate steps to move the food stocks? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is altogether a separate question. Anyhow I take the information from the hon. Member and I shall look into the matter."

SRI Y. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" In view of the fact that the new State is being carved out, may I know whether the Government are retaining the foodgrains procured in the Andhra districts in the Andhra areas themselves? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Unfortunately, it cannot be sold there because it is a surplus stock."

SRI P. SYAMASUNDARA RAO —" పశ్చిమ గోదావరి జిల్లాలో అన్ని ప్రాంతాలలోను గ్రామాలలో కూడా ధరలు విపరీతంగా పెరుగుతున్నాయని పేపర్లలో కూడ ఆందోళనకరమైన వార్తలు వస్తున్నాయి. కనుక, వెంటనే ప్రభుత్వము దీనిని విచారించి అక్కడ చౌక డిపోలు పెట్టడానికి చర్య తీసుకుంటుందా? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The question is this. Since news is appearing in the Press that the prices of foodgrains are rising very much in West Godavari, will the Government take immediate steps to open fair price shops there? "

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" All Collectors have been instructed to keep a close watch on the situation and whenever necessary, to reopen fair price shops in order to bring down the prices."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" I understand that Tadepalligudem is a rice-producing area. Then, what is the necessity to open fair price shops there? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That was not the question. The question was that there was some deterioration in the stocks of foodgrains at Tadepalligudem and what steps the Government were taking in that regard."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has the closing of fair price shops anything to do with the steady rise in the price of paddy as was seen from the news appearing in all the papers recently (including ' the Hindu '), at Tadepalligudem? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Perhaps it may be due to the activities of the merchants also. We are taking note of that also now and, if necessary, we shall take steps to requisition stocks under the Foodgrains (Licensing) Order."

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—" Since there is no control over exports, how can the Government decide whether an area is surplus or deficit in foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The normal quantity produced and the normal consumption in the districts are known and, therefore, we have calculated that there is surplus in these districts."

SRI V. SRI KRISHNA :—" Are the fair price shops fair with regard to prices? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It depends upon the attitude of the person who looks at it."

Statistics re *migration to neighbouring districts and States.*

* 222 *Q.*—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state whether the State Government have collected statistics of the number of famished men, women and children of Tamil districts who migrated in 1950–51 and 1951–52 to (i) Andhra districts, (ii) to Ceylon, and (iii) to Mysore State, and, if so, whether the Government will please furnish this House with the figures so collected?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The answer is in the negative."

SRI K. KRISHNA RAO :—" Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the Ceylon Government have been saying that there has been a great amount of illegal emigration to Ceylon due to the bad economic conditions in Tamil Nad and, if so, what steps have they taken to stop this kind of emigration? "